

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 22, 2005

Recent discussions concerning the disposal of solid waste in Los Angeles County have raised concerns about the exporting of trash from the City of Los Angeles to the Antelope Valley. Residents in Antelope Valley are concerned, with good reason, about local landfills accepting trash from outside of the Antelope Valley. In addition to the fundamental question of fairness, trucks driving from Los Angeles to Antelope Valley increase traffic congestion and worsen air quality.

The Antelope Valley (14 Freeway) already experiences severe congestion. Adding vehicles that haul trash, both the smaller residential trash trucks and the semi-tractor trailers that haul waste from transfer stations to landfills, presents a serious safety threat to motorists. This would be avoided if haulers would utilize local landfills. Commuters in particular are already frustrated with congestion, and the County should take steps to prevent the adding of trucks that delay their trips and endanger their safe passage.

The City of Los Angeles has not planned well for its long-term solid waste disposal needs. City officials have closed or severely constrained most landfills in the City, and City staff has performed only minimal investigation of alternatives, such as rail-haul. The majority of solid waste generated in the City of Los Angeles is disposed in landfills in County unincorporated areas. The residents of Antelope Valley should not be expected to shoulder the burden of solid waste disposal for the residents of the City of Los Angeles, particularly given the City's failure to address the issue on its own.

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There are two landfills in the Antelope Valley. One of these, the Lancaster Landfill, is located within County unincorporated areas and is subject to the County's land-use and permitting authority. The other landfill, the Antelope Valley Landfill, is located in the City of Palmdale, which is therefore subject to the City's land-use and permitting authority. Officials of both the County of Los Angeles and the City of Palmdale need to research the origins of trash going to these two landfills and take appropriate steps to insure that the landfills are being utilized in a prudent manner.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- Direct the Interim Director of the Department of Public Works to provide data concerning the origin of trash going into the Lancaster Landfill over the past 12 months;
- Direct the Interim Director of the Department of Public Works to report back to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days concerning steps necessary to institute a waste-shed for the Lancaster Landfill, to the extent authorized by law;
- Direct the Director of Regional Planning to report back to the to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days concerning the status of the pending CUP modification application filed by the owner of the Lancaster Landfill; and
- Prepare and execute a five-signature letter to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Palmdale requesting that the City consider similar measures for the Antelope Valley Landfill in the City of Palmdale.

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